CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, wherein the first and second members are movable relative to one another across a range of motion;

an adjustor member that transitions between a first state and a second state, wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a first distance when the adjustor member is in the first state, and wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a second distance when the adjustor member is in the second state.

2. A device as in claim 1, wherein the first distance is less than the second distance.

3. A device as in claim 1, further comprising at least one elongate rod interconnecting the first member and the second member.

4. A device as in claim 1, wherein the range of motion is linear.

5. A device as in claim 1, wherein the first member includes a distraction screw coupler that permits the first member or the first vertebra to be coupled to a distraction screw while the first member is connected to the first vertebra.

6. A device as in claim 1, wherein the distraction screw coupler comprises a borehole sized to receive therethrough a distraction screw.

7. A device as in claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the borehole can mate

with a portion of the distraction screw.

8. A device as in claim 1, wherein the first member includes a modular coupler that can mate with a second bone fixation device.

9. A device as in claim 1, wherein the range of motion is curved.

10. A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, the first and second members being movable relative to one another;

an adjustor member that can be adjusted to vary the degree of movement of the first member relative to the second member, wherein the degree of movement spans a first range when the adjustor member is in an first state and wherein the degree of movement spans a second range when the adjustor member is in a second state.

11. A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, the first and second members being movable relative to one another;

means for adjusting the range of motion of the first member relative to the second member, wherein the range of motion spans a first distance or a second distance.

12. A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, wherein the second member includes a distraction screw coupler that permits the second member or the second vertebra to be coupled to a distraction screw

while the second member is connected to the second vertebra.

13. A device as in claim 12, wherein the first member includes a distraction screw coupler that permits the first member or the first vertebra to be coupled to a distraction screw while the first member is connected to the first vertebra.

14. A device as in claim 12, wherein the distraction screw coupler comprises a borehole sized to receive therethrough a distraction screw.

15. A device as in claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the borehole can mate with a portion of the distraction screw.

16. A device as in claim 12, wherein the second member includes a modular coupler attachable to a second bone fixation device.

17. A device as in claim 12, wherein the first and second members are movable relative to one another across a range of motion, and further comprising:

an adjustor member that transitions between an first state and a second state, wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a first distance when the adjustor member is in the first state, and wherein the range of motion between the first member and second member spans a second distance when the adjustor member is in the second state.

18. A bone fixation device for retaining vertebra of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship, comprising:

a first member connectable to a first vertebra;

a second member connectable to a second vertebra and interconnected with the first member, wherein the second member includes an interface configured to be modularly attached to a second bone fixation device.

19. A device as in claim 18, wherein the interface comprises a borehole

extending through the first member, the borehole configured to mate with at least a portion of the second bone fixation device.

20. A device as in claim 18, wherein the borehole is configured to receive a distraction screw such that the second member or the first vertebra can be coupled to a distraction screw while the second member is connected to the second vertebra.

21. A device as in claim 18, wherein the first member includes an interface configured to be modularly attached to a third bone fixation device.